

Message Text

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ACTION AF-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01

INR-05 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 AID-05 DRC-01 IO-10 AGR-05 EB-04 SWF-01

COME-00 LAB-01 SIL-01 /090 W
----- 105527

P R 141000Z NOV 74

FM AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8724

INFO AMEMBASSY NIAMEY

AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L OUAGADOUGOU 2339

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PDEV, EGEN, UV

SUBJECT: QUARTERLY REPORT ON VOLTAN SITUATION

REF: OUAGA 1952, 1998, WPOI

1. AS REQUESTED BY AF, FOLLOWING ARE LEADING DEVELOPMENTS AND TRENDS IN UPPER VOLTA.
2. RAMADAN BEGAN IN THE MIDDLE OF THIS QUARTER, WHICH ADDED TO THE RELATIVE QUIET THAT MARKED THIS PERIOD. THE POTENTIALLY EXLOSIVE SITUATION INVOLVING THE MINISTER OF PLAN ANTOINE DAKOURE, WHO WAS RUMORED TO HAVE RESIGNED BECAUSE OF INVOLVEMENT IN THE MISHANDLING OF GRAIN DISTRIBUTION, ENDED WITHOUT INCIDENT OR RESIGNATION. PRESIDENT LAMIZANA CONTINUED TO EXPRESS HIS CONFIDENCE IN DAKOURE, AND THE MINISTER HAS BEEN VERY MUCH IN COMMAND OF HIS MINISTRY AS WELL AS THE DROUGHT RELIEF ACTIVITIES, DESPITE BOUTS OF "ILL-HEALTH."

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3. THERE HAS EMERGED DURING THIS QUARTER A TREND

TOWARDS CENTRALIZATION OF VARIOUS ACTIVITIES. THIS INCLUDED THE FOUNDING OF THE VOLTAN CONFEDERATION OF UNIONS WHOSE GOAL IS TO UNIFY ALL OF THE VARIOUS UNION GROUPS IN THE COUNTRY. A JOURNALIST UNION OF WHICH PRESIDENT LAMIZANA HAS BEEN NOMINATED HONORARY PRESIDENT. IN ADDITION, THERE ARE SIMILAR ORGANIZATIONS INVOLVING YOUTH AND WOMEN'S ACTIVITIES. THIS ATTEMPT AT CENTRALIZATION FITS IN WITH THE PLAN OF "RENEWAL," AND IF THE GOUV IS NOT BEHIND THE MOVEMENT, IT HAS CERTAINLY GIVEN IT ITS BLESSING.

4. PRESIDENT LAMIZANA HAS INDICATED THAT IN EARLY NOVEMBER THERE WOULD BEGIN POPULAR DEMONSTRATIONS THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY IN SUPPORT OF HIS REGIME, AND HE PLANS TO ATTEND ALL OF THEM. THE PURPOSE OF THESE MANIFESTATIONS IS TO MOBILIZE THE MASSES BEHIND THE REGIME AND THEREBY UNDERMINE THE POSITIONS OF THE OLD POLITICAL PARTIES. THIS AGAIN FITS IN WITH THE ENTIRE SPIRIT OF THE "RENEWAL" MOVEMENT, THE IDEA BEING THAT THERE IS ROOM FOR ALL IDEAS AND EVERYONE UNDER THE ONE "RENEWAL" UMBRELLA, OLD ANIMOSITIES AND RIVALRIES WILL BE SUBMERGED IN THE NEW EMERGING SPIRIT OF "RENEWAL" WHICH WILL PROVIDE A POLITICAL BASE FROM WHICH THE CURRENT REGIME CAN OPERATE UNTIL SUCH TIME AS LAMIZANA DECIDES ON HIS NEXT STEPS IN THE POLITICAL FIELD.

5. THE RAINS LASTED THROUGH SEPTEMBER AND INTO OCTOBER WHICH WOULD INDICATE THAT THE HARVEST THIS YEAR WILL BE OUTSTANDING. IF SO, IT WILL BE A REAL BOON TO THE ADMINISTRATION AND UNDOUBTEDLY WILL BE EFFECTIVELY USED BY LAMIZANA.

GRAHAM

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